

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 RSR-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9521

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1540

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: EUROGROUP

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RECENT CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATION UK DEFENSE ADVISOR QUINLAN INFORMED US DEFENSE ADVISOR PRENDERGAST OF CURRENT TIMING IN THE EUROGROUP ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE INFORMATION PROVIDED. END SUMMARY

1. EUROGROUP'S FOUR- NATION PLAN FOR POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF THE LANCE SYSTEM HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY THE EUROPEAN NATIONS INVOLVED, AND DECISIONS BY THE GOVTS ARE EXPTECTED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE MOST WORRISOME POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE A DECISION BY THE NEW DUTCH GOVT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ARRANGEMENT. THIS COULD LEAD TO COMPLETE REEXAMINATION OF THE PROJECT BY THE OTHER THREE EUROGROUP NATIONS (FRG, BELGIUM AND UK).

2. THE EUROGROUP MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED TWO FEELERS FROM THE FRENCH SUGGESTING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS UNDER THE AEGIS OF WEU. QUINLAN SAID THESE FEELERS HAD BEEN SO VAGUE THAT THE UK AT LEAST DID NOT TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY. SHOULD THE FRENCH OFFER A CONCRETE PROPOSAL, HE INDICATED, THE UK RESPONSE WOULD PROBABLY BE TO INVITE THE FRENCH

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PARTICIPATE AS A EUROGROUP MEMBER INSTEAD OF SEEKING TO REVIVE A MORIBUND WEU AGENCY.

3. QUINLAN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INFORMATION ABOUT FORTHCOMING
US PROPOSALS RELATING TO OFFS THE WASHINGTON PAPERS, THIS MORNING.

BUT I DOUBT, IN ANY EVENT, THAT I WOULD HAVE A COMMENT ON IT.

OUR PURPOSE IN RECENT MONTHS, AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND AS MR. SISCO HAS SAID, IS TO FOCUS
OUR ATTENTION ON HOW IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GET A NEGOTIA-
TING PROCESS UNDER WAY.

AND IF YOU HAVEN' T REREAD THE JANUARY 17 TH SPEECH IN
PARTICULAR, YOU MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT.

Q. REGARDLESS OF THE ACCOUNTS, HE MAKES A SPECIFIC ACCUSATION
THAT THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED AN ARMS DEAL WITH ISRAEL.

WAS THERE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

A. I CERTAINLY DON' T RECALL ONE.

Q. WELL, DIDN' T HE USE THE WORD " LEAKED?"
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Q. YES, HE ALSO -- HE USED BOTH -- WAS IT " LEAKED?"

A. IN THE SENSE OF " DELIBERATELY?"

Q. YES.

A. NO. END QUOTE. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/ T: POUCHED BAGHDAD, SANAA.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO001540
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730346/abqcdxhx.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROGROUP
TAGS: MARR, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005